



Around Tulare County

DELIVERING INFORMATION ABOUT TULARE COUNTY

AUGUST 2016

Supervisor's Message: Sometimes Life Throws You a Curve Ball



In 1993 the construction firm I owned was working as a sub-contractor with an international refrigeration company. We had four projects in progress throughout the valley with a value of almost \$1 million and I had forty-six employees. Life was good. There was money in the bank, new trucks in the parking lot of my new building and a promising outlook for the next two years. Then it happened. The curve ball right out of nowhere.

A phone call from one of my employees letting me know we had been locked out of the job site. My newest partner, the international refrigeration company, had just hung me out to dry. After speaking to my attorney for about an hour, I decided it was time to get out of the bad partnership immediately. So we cut our losses and moved on.

The next week I no longer had forty-six employees, bank account was almost empty and we were down to three used trucks. This is not the first time the business suffered a setback and would not be the last. People would ask what are you going to do, and I would answer right back, "keep working."

Most of us remember Abraham Lincoln's story and how many curve balls life sent his way. Failure after failure in both business and politics could not keep him down. With each failure he got right back up and kept working. Even with the death of two sons, and the weight of the Civil War resting on his shoulders, this great man pushed forward to bring freedom to all. In addition, Lincoln would deliver speeches that are still a must read today, over 150 years later.

The way we react when our curve ball comes, and it will come, depends on how well we have prepared ourselves. I have friends who never let the gas tank on their car get to the half full mark. Others who have a flashlight in every room of the house. Some that are prepared for evacuation emergencies with "go bags" right by the front door or in the trunk of their car.

So how do we prepare for that curve ball? Or even better yet, how do we prepare when we don't even know what the challenge will be?

Seven and a half years ago when my wife Connie was diagnosed with breast cancer, our world was turned upside down. How could anyone prepare for something like this? We had decisions to make about how aggressive we would be with treatment and face the possibility that she might not make it. So what do you do?

We got up every day with a determination to beat this thing and not let it keep us down. Sometimes you just need to do the best you can and just not give up. Connie survived her fight with cancer, and we continue to wait for the next curve ball.

So when life throws you a curve ball, and it will, very few will remember how many times you were knocked down. What they will remember is how many times you get up and "keep working."

Phillip Cox,
District Three
Tulare County Board
of Supervisors

Inside this issue:

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE	1
CREWS BATTLE CEDAR FIRE IN TULARE AND KERN COUNTIES	2
LATEST ON SHERIFF'S OPERATION BABY FACE	2
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: DELIA MARTINEZ	3
TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST ZIKA VIRUS	3
WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE COUNTY	4
COUNTY DATES FOR EVENTS, ACTIVITIES	4

Crews Battle Cedar Fire in Tulare & Kern Counties



The Cedar Fire broke out Tuesday, August 16 in Kern County and moved north into Tulare County the following day. The blaze threatened multiple mountain communities and triggered mandatory evacuations for Panorama Heights, Posey, Sugar Loaf, Idlewild, Pine Flat and California Hot Springs.

Over 2,000 personnel from various agencies including Tulare County Fire, Tulare County Sheriff, CHP, Cal FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, Kern County Fire, Kern County Sheriff, County of Tulare, and

more. The American Red Cross was called in to operate evacuation centers in both Tulare and Kern counties.

The fire burned over 22,000 acres by August 25, and is active within areas of 80-100% tree mortality from drought and bark beetle infestation. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time, however the primarily driver of this fire is the dry fuels within the Sequoia National Forest.

Tulare County Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency and sent a request to the

Governor for a State of Emergency due to the Cedar Fire, and waive any regulations that may hinder response and recovery efforts, and provide any State resources necessary to combat the fire.

Smoke levels from the Cedar Fire are high in Tulare County, especially in the areas of the City of Porterville. Tulare County health officials urged community members to stay indoors and avoid exerting themselves. Smoke from wildfires can irritate your eyes and respiratory system, and worsen chronic heart and lung disease.

TCSO's Operation Baby Face - Phase II

On August 11, the County Sheriff's Operation Baby Face dismantled a human trafficking organization that sexually exploited 23 juveniles and 29 adults in the County. Three primary suspects were arrested for human trafficking and 12 people were arrested for co-conspiracy.

On August 22, Sheriff Boudreaux announced seven men were arrested over the weekend following an operation similar to "Dateline NBC: To Catch a Predator."

As a result of Operation Baby Face Phase I, detectives learned of sexual predators who were operating separately from the human trafficking case on the internet via social media. Operation Baby Face Phase II focuses on these predators.

Through an online undercover operation, seven predators were identified and arrested for soliciting an adult undercover deputy purporting

herself to be a 16-year-old female juvenile online for sexual exploitation, said Boudreaux.

"I want the public's attention," he said. "The public needs to know that there are predators looking to prey on the innocence of our children. We will be vigilant and aggressive in identifying these predators."

During Operation Baby Face Phase II, a female deputy represented herself online as a 16-year-old girl in Tulare County. In no time, several men pursued her even though it was clear she was underage.

While they didn't meet the criteria of a human trafficking case, they did pursue her, whom they believed to be a female juvenile, for sexual acts. That is a crime.

Sheriff Boudreaux's message for kids: Choose your friends wisely. Be aware that there are predators who

say they want to be your friends. When someone asks you to send a revealing photo of yourself, say no and notify your parents. Photos on the internet last forever.

For Parents: Please call law enforcement when anything suspicious happens.

Sheriff Boudreaux encourages parents to talk with their children about what children are doing online and how it could possibly lead to victimization.

"Talk to your children," he said. "You are the parents. Look at what your children are doing online. Be a concerned and protective parent."

Please contact law enforcement if you discover something suspicious.

Tulare Co. Sheriff's Office:
(559) 733-6218 or
anonymously through TipNow
at (559) 725-4194 or
tcsso@tipnow.com.



Employee Spotlight: Delia Martinez



Name: Delia Martinez

Title: Community Health Technician

Years of Service: 2 years

Duties: Case coordination management, tracking and follow-up of PM 357's. Including foster children and PM160 provider visits.

Outreach and Health Education in attending health fairs and kindergarten registrations to

inform the public and promote the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program.

Volunteer activities in working at the flu clinic booth during the 2015 Employee Health Fair; Senior day at the park 2015 & 2016 at the volunteer registration; Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP); Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER); and 2016 Election Polls.

Family? I have 4 brothers and I am the only girl in my family.

Hobbies Clubs/ Organizations?

I enjoy baking, reading, playing tennis, softball, going to concerts, hiking, camping, horseback riding, archery, swimming, volunteering, helping others and traveling.

I volunteer with the American Red Cross. I help install smoke alarms and replace old

batteries that are in the smoke alarms. Volunteer with the Cutler-Orosi School District to chaperon high school students on college field trips.

What is your most rewarding experience as a County employee?

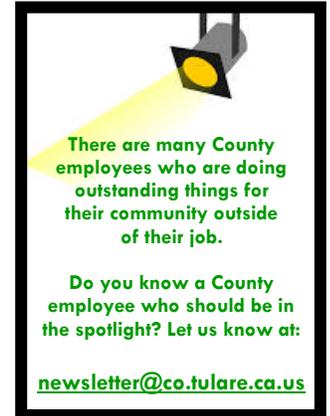
Helping people in the communities and informing them about the different programs that the County has to offer.

Something other employees might not know about you?

I enjoy going to rodeos throughout the valley.

Where is your favorite place to visit in Tulare County?

My favorite place to visit in Tulare County is SCICON in Springville. I like to go every April for their annual Barbecue & Wildflower Festival.



Take Precautions Against Zika Virus

Health Officials urge those traveling to Mexico, Central and South American countries to take precautions against mosquito bites to prevent contracting the Zika virus. The virus spreads through bites from the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitos, but can also spread via sexual contact. Pregnant women and women considering becoming pregnant are encouraged at this time to avoid traveling to countries where the Zika virus is widespread.

All community members, especially pregnant women if

they must travel, should take precautions by using insect repellent and removing standing water where mosquitoes typically breed.



Symptoms of Zika include mild illness with fever, joint and muscle pain, skin rash, and redness of the eyes. Symptoms may last two to seven days after a bite; the virus stays in the blood system for about a

week. Because the Zika virus in pregnant women can cause fetal loss or microcephaly in the infant, pregnant women should not travel to endemic areas.

Although there is no evidence that the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes present in Tulare County carry Zika, travelers may become infected and inadvertently spread the virus. There are no vaccines or medications to speed up recovery; the best form of prevention is protection against mosquito bites.

Protect yourself by using mosquito repellent which is safe for anyone over two months of

age; wearing hats, long sleeved shirts, and pants; using insecticide-treated mosquito nets for sleeping; and staying in screened-in or air conditioned areas.

Residents should also be aware of any standing water such as backyard pools, water features, discarded tires, and other items that hold water.

For more information, please visit <http://tularehhsa.org> or Tulare County Vector Control at <http://www.deltavcd.com/>.

County Holds Active Shooter Drill in Visalia Courthouse



County of Tulare, Tulare County Superior Court, CA Judicial Council, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, and other local agencies conducted an active shooter training drill on Thursday, August 18.

"Tulare County stepped up and realized that training for everyone is important," he said.

"It was exciting to see," said Presiding Judge Gary Paden said. "I felt a lot safer after seeing them go through it."

Tulare County is the first court in the state to participate in a multi-agency shooting drill, said Judicial Council's security coordinator, Nick Barsetti.

According to organizers, the drill was a success. Work is underway in developing an After Action Report.

AROUND TULARE COUNTY

Around Tulare County is published once a month as a service to the public. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written by County staff. For additional information, contact Carrie Crane.

Around Tulare County
2800 W. Burrel Ave.
Visalia, CA 93291
Phone: (559) 636-5000
Fax: (559) 733-6898

E-Mail/Subscribe:
newsletter@co.tulare.ca.us

Internet:
www.aroundtularecounty.com

JULY / AUGUST COUNTY ACTIVITIES, DEADLINES, EVENTS, MEETINGS

Event/Meeting: (Date/Time)	More Information:
Board of Supervisors Dark—No Meeting: September 6	(559) 636-5000
Board of Supervisors Meeting: 9 a.m. August 30	(559) 636-5000
Tulare County Planning Commission: 9:00 a.m. August 24	(559) 624-7000
Tulare County Youth Commission: 3 p.m. September 19	(559) 636-5000
Water Commission: 3 p.m. September 12	(559) 636-5000

**Do You Want To Receive Updates
On County News?**

**Be sure to "Like" The County Facebook and Twitter Fan Pages:
Facebook.com/CountyofTulare and @CountyofTulare**



Places to Go Play: Lake Success is located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley about eight miles east of Porterville on Highway 190. With the scenic Sierra Nevada in the background, Lake Success provides great fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, picnicking, and more. Learn more about Lake Success and other places to "Go Play" at www.tularecountymap.com.